

Support for media ownership diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. Additionally, Congress should consider the total repeal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Cable TV has evolved into hundreds of channels owned by less than 10 corporations instead of 60 channels owned by 20 corporations.

I live near Los Angeles, the second largest TV market in the US. Presently two VHF television stations are owned by CBS/Viacom and their combination has caused a deterioration in the quality of local news content and duplication of programming, not diversity of programming. The Internet is a valuable source of diverse information, but it cannot compete with over-the-air broadcasters in its availability to the average citizen of various economic classes. The Internet is not a competitor to TV and Radio, it is only complementary.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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